



Foggy Bottom News

July 1998

Published by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 40 No. 9

FB Resident "Slams" AmJam

One FB resident has shared with the *News* her correspondence with the Kennedy Center about the excessive noise level during the Center's recent AmJam. Monika Bernstein's detailed but cordial letter, and the Center's reply, are reproduced here.

Bernstein writes to KenCen President Lawrence J. Wilker:

I am writing concerning the American Music Heritage Festival which just took place at the Kennedy Center for the three-day Memorial Day holiday.

From what I have seen and heard, the event has garnered mostly complimentary reviews and it is expected that this will become an annual happening at the KenCen. My concern has to do with the noise level due to the amplification of the various performers on the Plaza level. I live directly across from the KenCen Plaza in the Envoy Building of the Columbia Plaza complex and my balcony faces one or two of the staging areas. On Saturday I called the police and reported the truly incredible noise coming from the Plaza stage(s); even with all my windows closed and the radio on I could not get away from the pounding noise. I was told that someone would check out the decibel level and issue a citation/ticket if they found the noise in excess of approved city levels for these events. I don't know whether such a person ever did come to the KenCen but things got quieter after a while.

On Sunday, things started up around 10 am and really got going shortly after noon. I called the police number again, was directed to call the Park Police who suggested I call the KenCen security number and was subsequently given the direct dial number for the head of the Kennedy Center security forces (416-7925). I left a message at that number and again, things quieted down; I called the above number again

(AmJam, to page 5)

UPDATE

Zoning Commission Holds Hearing on 22nd & M PUD

At a hearing on June 4th, the Zoning Commission heard proponents and opponents of the expanded Planned Unit Development project at 22nd and M Streets. Testifying for the project were representatives from the developer, Millenium Partners and Eastbanc Inc., as well as Richard Price, ANC Commissioner for the area involved, and several other residents. Opposing certain aspects of the development were ANC Chair Dorothy Miller and others.

Questions were asked about the amenities package agreed on earlier, which included work on Washington Circle, under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. At least one member of the Commission agreed that Federal property

(Update, to page 8)

Mayoral Candidates Debate at June 29 Meeting

The FBA is honored to host, at its June 29 meeting, the leading candidates in the race for the Democratic nomination for mayor of our city. Attending will be Councilmembers Harold Brazil, Kevin Chavous, and Ward 2's Jack Evans, along with businessman Jeffrey Gildenhorn. Newly-announced candidate Anthony Williams will also participate in the forum. The candidates will compete in the September 15 primary election.

Please join us for this exciting event, on Monday, June 29, at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. FBA elections will take place at the very beginning of the meeting.

Elections Scheduled for June Meeting

Elections for FBA officers and Executive Board members will be held at the June meeting, Monday, June 29, at 7:30 p.m. Special thanks go to the Nominating Committee, chaired by Michael Thomas, and committee members Anne Charles, Charlie Clapp, Marilyn Rubin and Steve Timlin. The committee has

(Elections, to page 4)

Can the Park Lane be Saved?

by Gerald Troop

It looks like a done deal. Kaempfer wants to buy. Bernstein wants to sell. A contract has been signed. An architect has been selected. Preliminary drawings have been made and presented. The Historic Preservation Review Board has ruled that the Park Lane building has not sufficient historical merit to warrant preservation. No groundswell of opposition has arisen from any corner. It appears that the demolition of the Park Lane and the construction of a Class A office building are a matter of right.

Can community pressure influence big business? Yes, it can, especially if it's in the interest of business to do so. Case in point. One June 10 of this year I observed a GWU work crew cutting down a mature grove of nine beautiful flowering Japanese plum trees. I made a few phone calls and prepared a list of the right people to call. I then stalled the workers while giving out that list to other concerned individuals. Within the hour, GWU President Trachtenberg came out and decreed that the three trees remaining untouched by chainsaws would be saved. Red Lion Row Mall at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue is a similar story. Pressured by preservationists to save the old facade, they produced a beautiful and commercially successful building.

If all her stories could be told, the Park Lane might well qualify for historic preservation. Of course, they never will be told. In her glory days, the Park Lane was home to the mistresses of the rich and powerful. In those days, privacy was considered a right and if discretion was not a virtue, it was the next best thing when virtue was not available. More recently, since its conversion to offices, the Park Lane has been home to such notables as CARE, Inc. and Amnesty International. "It's an incubation building," states Bernstein's own representative.

(Park Lane, to page 7)

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Speaker:

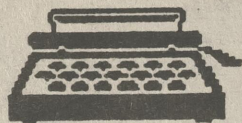
MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM & FBA ELECTIONS

Monday, June 29, 1998

Wyndham Bristol Hotel
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next Meeting, Monday, September 28, 1998)



In the Mail

Thank you so very much for the support you have given to the Women's Board of the GWU Hospital, and for printing the recent story about its 100 years of service. The Board needs volunteers who will work one-half day once a week on a regular basis in the Gift Shop, and to take the Shopping Cart to patient rooms. Here is my phone to be used by anyone who would consider helping the Board in its worthwhile endeavors (338-6549).

Vorda Honnold
History and Publicity
Women's Board,
GWU Hospital

Kasimira Opasnov

Kasimira Opasnov, 95, mother of Maria Tyler, died May 29 at her home in the Jefferson House condominium. She had suffered a stroke and had been ill for some time. She was born in Lithuania, lived in West Germany, and worked for several retail stores in Washington until her retirement in the early 1970s. Funeral services were held at the Russian Orthodox Church of St. John. She is survived by Maria Tyler and another daughter, Dr. Irene Wassum of Wiesbaden, Germany.

The Becker Beat



After months of planning and preparation, the Foggy Bottom Community Policing Center at 2331 Virginia Avenue opened on Thursday, June 11.

As I had passed the site often in the past weeks, I thought of how pleased Lt. Joe Trippi must be that his dream for this facility had come true.

The day was a nice one, and it promised to be an unusual and harmonious occasion. GWU had set up tents and amplification, and provided refreshments. The community got involved in the opening as well, with Lucille Molinelli's three scrumptious cakes, decorated with police emblems and miniature squad cars and motorcycles, and flowers by Sandra Vonetes, a long time supporter of the MPD. Dorothy Miller also brought a cake, and the center's neighbor, the Remington, sent a flowering plant to brighten the facility. Police and university partygivers worked hard to make it a nice event.

GW had made the premises available, brought it up to code, painted and prettied it up, and will provide the utilities. It is being used by the officers of PSA 207 and 208 as a place for reporting, paperwork, meal breaks, etc., and will be open for the public as volunteer staffing allows. To volunteer call Lt. Atcheson at 282-0050.

Presiding was Jill Kastle, Marshall of the university; Dolores Stafford, Director of the GWU Police, made welcoming remarks. Other speakers were Assistant Chief of Police Alfred Broadbent, Lt. Robert Atcheson of PSA 207 and Lt. Phillip Lanciano of PSA 208. GWU President Trachtenberg and I also were on the program. Jill Kastle evoked more than one chuckle when she asked the "long blue line of policemen" present to take a good look at her face so they would recognize her if they saw her going through a red light, assuring them she would be "hurrying to church, of course."

I was pleased to make remarks, stating: "The Foggy Bottom community welcomes this center, and appreciates GW's making the building available. It's a terrific use of a building they've been wondering what to do with for some time, definitely making great lemonade out of sort of a lemon!"



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Foggy Bottom Hist. Dist.

July 1998

Volume 40, No. 9

Foggy Bottom News

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor Ellie Becker
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin
Contributors John Graves, Rennie Melonson,
Jim Patterson

To place ads, call Steve Timlin at 338-8750. Cost for classified ads is 60¢ per word; a 2-inch high by 2-column (or 4-inch high by 1-column wide) ad — the smallest available — is \$38.50.

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS
c/o West End Library
24th & L Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

October issue: to be distributed September 26
Copy Deadline: September 11, camera ready: September 18

ADVERTISING	(202) 338-8750
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EDITORIAL	(202) 337-5528
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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

1997-98 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Ellie Becker
Vice President Michael T. Thomas
Secretary Kirsten Olsen
Treasurer Matthew Hall
Membership Director Polly Berman

Olga Corey	James McLeod
Chris Lamb	Richard J. Price
Lucille Molinelli	Jo Tucci

Marjorie Wheatley

"While we do not always agree with GW's actions (and that may be the understatement of the day), we do applaud them for this, as it will be extremely helpful to PSA 207's and 208's officers. We have come to appreciate those officers for the job they do, and to know them and like them as good neighbors, and as good friends. And what's good for them is good for Foggy Bottom!"

I know what I said, but must admit I lost track of what others said after the opening remarks by President Stephen Joel

Trachtenberg. He reportedly departed from his official text to do some "truth-telling." He stated that when he had been asked why he wanted a policing station on campus (see note), he responded that "it was so they could protect him from Dorothy Miller" (ANC Chair).

You know what happened? Some people laughed; some did not. I didn't.

Note: Just for the record, the 2300 block of Virginia Avenue and the rest of that triangle-shaped block, while largely owned by the University, is NOT a part of the campus.

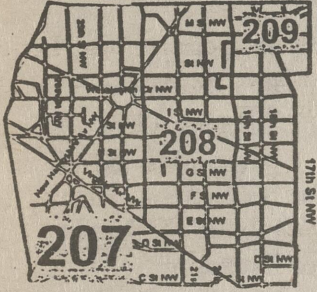
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News from 2D (2nd District, Metropolitan Police)



New Rucker on Patrol

PSA 208 Sgt. John Rucker is the proud father of a brand new son, born on June 12. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 13 oz., and is now known as PSA 208 Recruit Johnathan Douglas Rucker. Rucker and his wife also have a daughter. Congratulations, John!

Team 208 Poses at Station

Sgt. Rucker is team leader for PSA 208, which scored the greatest crime decrease for the Second District for the month of April. Officers of PSA 208 are shown in their team photo, with Captain Shannon Cockett, Sgt. John



MPO Ray Echols and Sgt. Bob Panizari attack the painted wall of the Kummer house.

Rucker and Master Patrol Officer Hicks in the front row. The four in the next row are Officers Squires, Allen, T. Carter, and Washington. The next row of five shows Officers Williams, Rogers, Cadle, Toler, and Ebert (in suit). The back row of seven are Detective Scott (also in a suit), and Officers Larkin, Anderson, D. Carter, Evans, Davis and Christian.

Team from 207 Attacks Graffiti

Part of community policing, according to our officers, is care about quality of life, and one of their targets is graffiti. One of the most egregious examples of that menace was the side of the house at 26th & L. After several tries which were rained out this spring, a crew

representing PSA 207 appeared at 8:00 a.m. with a ladder, roller, paint brushes and six gallons of paint, matched by computer with the existing coat. The team of Sgt. Bob Panizari, MPO Ray Echols, and Officers Buffy Contee, Wendy Payne and Doug Mason made short shrift of the project. Jeff Pearlman, who lives at West End Place, did his part to erase the graffiti for which he as a special loathing; Ellie Becker was also on hand to paint and encourage. Panizari won the best-dressed painter award; he cited wide experience in painting his home due to 12-and 14-year old sons who "are really tough on walls."

Lanciano Calls for Better House Numbers

At the June 1 FBA meeting, Lt. Phillip Lanciano of PSA 208 provided reports on crime for the month of May, and offered several safety and crime prevention tips. One strong



Buffy Contee and Jeff Pearlman wield brushes and rollers.

suggestion was that homeowners be sure to have visible house numbers, both in front and back, to help police officers and firefighters find the right place in an emergency. Makes good sense, and might be a good summer project for owners or renters whose houses lack visible numbers.

He also mentioned that a car seemingly broken down on one of our streets, perhaps with someone with the car and the hood up, might be a sign of a burglary in progress. He suggested a call to 727-1010 to report it--just in case--and officers could check it out.



Wendy Payne and Buffy Contee stand back while Doug Mason applies a second coat.

Join the FBA!

Mr/Ms/Mrs. _____

Street Address _____ Apt. # _____

Washington, DC _____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Resident Dues.....	\$ 10	<i>Make all checks payable to: Foggy Bottom Association and Mail to: FBA c/o West End Library 24th & L Streets, N.W. Washington, DC 20037</i>
Student Dues.....	\$ 5	
Business Dues**.....	\$ 25	
**No voting rights for business members.		
Contribution.....	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed.....	\$ _____	

—Dues Year Ending June 30, 1999—

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Foggy Bottom Folks

We all know that some of the best roses in the area can be seen in the 2400 block of Eye Street. But do you know that one resident can lean out of her third story window and smell the roses, yellow ones to be exact? She is **Inez Pulver**, who may have the tallest climbing rose ever.

Sorry to hear that **Isabella Geppert** and **Bob Brewster** both have had some hospital time and now are convalescing. Not sure about Isabella but somehow it seems likely that Bob would not be an especially patient patient.

Several of the men in blue from PSA 207 introduced us to the treats in store if you visit the Treats Gourmet on M Street. **Rosa Mezza** took over in December 1997, and offers a varied line of sandwiches (heroes, etc.), two soups, salad bar and three hot dishes daily--a pasta dish, chicken and one other (fish on Friday). But the real Treats at Treats are the creation of baker **Louis Williams**, made daily on the premises: croissants, plain or flavored; eight-count them--eight kinds of muffins; danish (the cherry is superb); cupcakes; and a healthy-sized and heavenly item called a Cinnamon Swirl (heated and with icing, it's downright immorally delicious), and all at reasonable prices. Treats' owner Rosa hails from Rome where she was a teacher. She is lucky to have one son who is a bank auditor, and another son in marketing, and they both share their knowledge with her. Treats is in the One Westin Center building, just west of the ANA Hotel on M Street, and it's open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Treat Yourself!

West End Place welcomed a new manager last month in

the person of **Mary Mitchell**, and the condo board held a reception for her on May 21. Owners and residents attended, along with the managers of nearby buildings, and **Pam Porter**, owner of the Mail Boxes Etc. around the corner from the condominium building. Mitchell earlier had worked at the Claridge at 25th and K.

Bill Matthews reports that in recognition of "Older Americans Month," St. Mary's Court enlivened its monthly happy hour on May 22 with a spectacular display of residents' art work. The display included works demonstrating skillful accomplishment in a variety of styles. They ranged from portraiture to some exquisite architectural line drawings of buildings in Hong Kong, Macao and environs. The Court hopes another show can be scheduled and publicized to the whole Foggy Bottom community.

The Park Lane Building, almost an institution in FB, is slated for demolition sometime in the future to make way for a new office building. **Gerald Troop**, our favorite MST, is a tenant of that building and, of course, eventually may have to move his practice. If so, FB will be deprived of a fine therapist. He also dispenses good conversation if encouraged to do so.

A new (or more accurately a resurrected) gas station is slated to open on the northeast corner of 27th Street and Virginia Avenue. A Sunoco station was in that location for many years, and **Watergate Exxon** will again have a friendly competitor (Chevron) across the street.

There is a new service in FB/WE helpful to former customers of the L Street Safeway (and others). **Urban Services** offers regular grocery deliveries in Foggy Bottom, West End and Dupont Circle. The company is run by **David Urban** (what an appropriate surname!); see his ad below.

(Elections, from page 1)

recommended the following candidates:

For President
Ellie Becker
For Vice President
James McLeod
For Secretary
Lucille Molinelli
For Treasurer
Rita Champagne
For Membership Director
Matthew Hall
For Executive Board
Catherine Braun
Russell Conlan
Olga Corey
Charles Farbstein
Katherine Hartman
Richard Price

Ellie Becker (President)

Ellie Becker, current FBA president, owns a home on Eye Street and has been involved with the FBA for over 25 years. She is also editor of the *News*, and oversees its distribution as well. She recently retired and continues her volunteer work at School Without Walls and for the Washington Volunteer Readers for the Blind.

James E. McLeod (Vice President)

Jim McLeod was a member of the Foggy Bottom Association Executive Board during the 1997-98 term. He was born in Foggy Bottom and has lived here fulltime since 1983. He and his wife Kate reside in the 2400 block of Pennsylvania Avenue. Jim, a lawyer whose primary practice is in the criminal defense field, has testified a number of times before the D.C. Council, the Zoning Commis-

(to next page)

Neighborhood Datebook

Monday, June 29: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with mayoral candidates and FBA elections. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1: Community Meeting, Police Service Area 208. Call Sgt. John Rucker, 282-0050, for information. State Plaza Hotel, 2117 E Street, N.W. 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday-Sunday, July 7-19: Brothers of the Knight, music and dance adaptation of the classic Grimms tale, the Twelve Dancing Princesses. Choreographed and directed by, and starring award-winning dancer Debbie Allen and also starring singer James Ingram, the show uses local young people as its cast. \$20, at KenCen or call 476-4600.

Wednesday, July 8: "Chiropractic: The Ugly Duckling Spreads Its Wings," by Dale Ward, Doctor of Chiropractic. Lecture in Complementary and Alternative Medicine Summer Sampler Series presented by GW Center for Integrative Medicine. GWU Hospital Auditorium, 902 23rd Street, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A meeting. Call 659-0011 for location. Presentation on new GWU Hospital is scheduled. 7:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, July 17-18: Flea Market, to benefit AIDS patients. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 728 23rd Street.

DONATIONS WELCOME daily 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Phone 333-3985. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22: "Phytochemicals: A New Dietary Defense Against Cancer," by Cyndi Reeser, Registered Dietician, and "Banishing Back Pain: A New Treatment Approach," by Andrea Leonard-Segal, Board Certified Rheumatologist. GWU Hospital Auditorium, 902 23rd Street, 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday August 4: "Imagine Health: Using Imagery for Wellness," by Jane Lincoln, Licensed Social Worker, and "Caring for Yourself with Reiki," by Luann Jacobs, Reiki Master. GWU Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 8: Clothing and Accessory Collection, Suited for Change, seeking clothing and accessories suitable for the workplace, for low-income women entering or re-entering the job market. Call 293-0351 for information. 1712 Eye Street, N.W., 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

Wednesday, August 18: "Massage: The Mind-Body Connection," by Alan Alper, Certified Massage Therapist. GWU Hospital Auditorium, 901 23rd Street, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 15: Primary Elections for Mayor, Council Chair, Council at Large seats, and Congressional Delegate. Foggy Bottom polling places are at the West End Library, St. Mary's Court, and United Church.

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Summer Worship Schedule
June 28 - August 30, 1998

Sunday Services in English at 10:00 every week
German Services at 8:45 on July 5, and August 2, only

Weekly Community Services: AA, NA, OA, DA, MA,
Miriam's Closet, Foggy Bottom Food Pantry
Pastoral Counseling & Consultation Center
Senior Pastor Dr. H. Donald Smith + Pastor Alfred Radeloff, German Services
Home Page: <http://members.aol.com/Radeloff/homepage.html>

(from page 4)

sion and the Board of Zoning Adjustment. In addition to tutoring a student at Stevens Elementary, he is an ardent sailor, and has crewed on a Mobjack sailboat in the Potomac River Sailing Association spring and fall race series since 1990. One of his aims is to bring sailboats back to the Thompson Boat Center and to our portion of the Potomac River.

Lucille Molinelli (Secretary)

Mrs. Molinelli has lived in FB for 49 years, now residing on F Street on the edge of the GWU campus; she has long been a booster and defender of our neighborhood, along with her late husband Jimmy. She has been a member of the Board for several years, and is also active in the West End Citizens Association. A homemaker and mother, she also worked in quantity food service management and still enjoys the "art of food preparation." Her efforts continue for a safe and clean neighborhood.

Rita Champagne (Treasurer)

Rita Champagne has lived in Foggy Bottom since 1976, and worked for the State Department in office management positions. Earlier she was with ABC in New York, and has considerable conference organization and administration experience. She hails from Vermont (you can still hear it in her voice), and is active in the Columbia Plaza Tenants Association. Her projects and activities include volunteer work with seniors for the Red Cross, cleaning up a neighborhood park, and attempting to control bus traffic at the Kennedy Center.

Matthew Hall (Membership Director)

Matthew Hall has owned a home on New Hampshire Avenue since 1994, and

(AmJam, from page 1)

to thank Mr. Horn for his efforts in case he was responsible for the desired "toning down" and left shortly thereafter around mid-afternoon.

On Monday, things started out noisily around noontime and despite my calling Mr. Horn's number the noise level never abated except for the times when there was a change in performers. I support the Kennedy Center's efforts to draw a wider audience for their cultural offerings but I mind very seriously a cavalier attitude when it comes to peaceful co-existence with the citizens living in Foggy Bottom. Up until now I knew to make plans to be out of my apartment on the Center's annual Open House Day because of the noise and the crowds but when I am unable to enjoy my living space for three days running, I get unhappy enough to want to effect a change!

Giant Amplifiers Were Upsetting

Ordinarily I love the proximity of my apartment to the Kennedy Center and I attend many, many performances there every year. I accept the fact that there is hardly any parking on the streets when I invite friends over but, generally, I feel that there are many more advantages to having the KenCen so close than disadvantages—with the possible exception of having all the tour buses idling in front of the Center, especially during the summer months. However, this recent addition of a three-day music fest with blaring giant amplifiers without any concern for the citizens nearby has really got me upset.

I look forward to a reply and hope there will be some adjustments made in this regard before the 1999 AMJAM gets

formerly served as the marketing director for the GW Graduate School of Political Management. Prior to moving to South Carolina in 1996 to establish a residential mortgage company, he served as FBA membership director. Matt has completed his MBA requirements, and will start his second job in law school in the fall.

Catherine Braun (Executive Board)

Catherine Braun lives at Potowmac Overlook on 26th Street, serving as 1997-98 president of its condo board. During her term on the Board, she and other residents worked mightily to clean up the lots at 26th and L owned by the Egyptian government. A native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, she was active in civic affairs there, including the Junior League. She is a

member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and enjoys a widespread Foggy Bottom resident activity—visiting D.C.'s long list of museums.

Russell Conlan (Executive Board)

Russell Conlan is new to FBA, but not to the neighborhood. He lives in a townhouse on Eye Street, after moving from the Griffin on 26th Street, where he served on the Board of Directors. By profession, he is a lawyer and currently is with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Olga Corey (Executive Board)

Olga Corey is a longtime resident of Foggy Bottom, and now lives at Colonial Arms on 26th Street. Her career has been in both the public and private non-profit sector, specializing in communications, outreach and

under way. Maybe some very tall clear plastic barriers could be put up along the E-Street Expressway similar to the ones now being used by some symphony orchestras between the string section and the percussion instruments or, alternatively, maybe some decibel meters could be installed and monitored to make sure that the noise doesn't exceed "bearable" levels or, possibly, a phone number could be published for people to call when the noise gets excessive. Surely, good neighborly relations with the Foggy Bottom citizens is of consequence to the Kennedy Center, too!

Mr. Wilker responds:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 26th in which you register concern about the noise level during our recent American Music Heritage Festival.

I regret that you were disturbed by the music amplification. The Festival hours were from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and no musicians were scheduled beyond that time. We, too, would not want anyone unduly unsettled by loud music late at night.

As members of the Foggy Bottom Citizens Association, we here at the Center try very hard to be a good neighbor. We will pay close attention to decibel levels next year.

Again, I apologize and thank you for expressing your concerns.

Ed. note: Many people have commented on the excessive noise level during the event. If it bothered us a block away, what on earth was it doing to the eardrums of those up close? Also, Wilker mentions "late at night." Seems like the noise was bad all afternoon too.

coalition-building. Formerly a staff member on Capitol Hill, Corey currently consults on environmental issues. Elected to the Executive Board in 1997, Corey chairs the FBA's 40th Anniversary Committee.

Charles Farbstein (Executive Board)

Charles Farbstein has lived in Foggy Bottom since 1979, and he and his wife now reside in the Claridge on 25th Street. He is a lawyer, has retired from posts at the Department of Justice, Housing & Urban Development and the Atomic Energy Commission, and now acts as a volunteer mediator for the D.C. and Federal courts. Both Farbstein and his wife Janet were on the Whitehurst Freeway Steering Committee, and are active in their coop and at GW Hospital. One hobby is opera, with special interest in Handel.

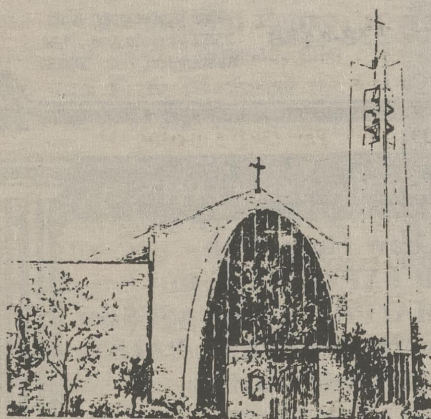
Katherine Hartman (Executive Board)

Katherine Hartman lives at the Bonwit on H Street, and has been involved for many years with travel and tourism

activities. She currently is a receptionist and tour guide for the Department of State, and earlier for Halifax Engineering, Inc. During her career she was with Capital Airlines, now United Airlines, and with Tourmobile. She also worked as a travel agent, for GWU's travel and tourism program, and for the State Department in Istanbul and London.

Richard J. Price (Executive Board)

Richard Price is also currently serving on the Board, having formerly been FBA president and treasurer. A resident of the Westbridge at 26th & Pennsylvania, he hails from Cleveland, graduated from Johns Hopkins University, and works for the Congressional Research Service on health policy. A special interest is music, and in the neighborhood he works on beautification and transportation issues. He was recently elected to serve out the unexpired term as ANC Commissioner for the area north of Pennsylvania Avenue.

**CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN MARTYR****SUNDAY VIGIL MASS**

Saturday

5:30 PM with Cantor

SUNDAY MASSES

9:00 AM with Cantor

11:30 AM Solemn with Choir

1:00 PM with Gospel Choir

5:30 PM with Cantor

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Monday through Friday

6:30 AM, 12:10 & 5:30 PM

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From Your Commission, ANC2-A

This message to the community is being written before the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of your Commission. On the agenda under New Business are two items: (1) The renovation of the entranceway of the Watergate office building at 2600 Virginia Avenue; and (2) GWU's presentation of four-story in-fill construction which includes the renovation of a historic building at 2003 20th Street, the President's House, to extend the Burns Law School.

Plans for the **Watergate Office** building were presented to all six Commissioners with specific renderings of the changes. As Chair of ANC-2A, I would record my praise for the efforts of Trizechahn Office Properties for their thoughtful consideration of what is needed by the Commission to assist the developer and protect the interest of the community.

The second item is another request by GWU in what seems to be an accelerated number of projects being planned by George Washington University before the year 2000, when the current campus plan ends. This accelerated building program comes as the D.C. Council is preparing to consider Bill-12-99, the

Comprehensive Plan Amendments Act of 1997. Although GWU has claimed that the ANC refuses to hear these many projects, the truth is that GWU inundated D.C. agencies and the community with numerous requests for expeditious project approval. The University has ignored the ANC's request for a moratorium on non-dormitory construction on campus. GWU has by far the highest student enrollment of any university in D.C. (19,063 headcount). ANC-2A has requested that GWU present to the D.C. government, and the community, its plans for housing its students on campus in order to reduce the enormous unsatisfied demand for on-campus student housing.

The renovation of historic properties, such as the **President's House**, requires serious consideration and approval of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) or, if not approved by the HPRB, a review by the Mayor's Agent. There is stipulation in the Campus Plan that GWU will protect all historic properties within its campus boundaries. The Commission and the community will be informed of the University plans on Wednesday, June 17th. The

renderings presented in advance by GWU to the Commission are sketchy and fail to cover this important aspect in which the community has a serious interest.

Another matter is of overriding concern of the Commission and the community at this time: whether the Zoning Commission will approve the Millenium Partners' plans to modify the Planned Unit Development (PUD) at **2200 M Street, NW**. This modification was filed on February 12, just 12 days after the Order was issued for the original request. The scope of the modification changes include three zoning changes and the use of District air space above and below a public alley. The community has not had adequate time to address the many concerns that a project of this complexity and size bring to a small residential neighborhood.

The Zoning Commission expressed some of the same concerns we have with the shortcomings of the proposal, for example; (1) the lack of required setback to preserve open space in a residential community; (2) the justification for additional height; (3) the vague and incomplete plans for the court area; (4) plans to manage the effect on traffic of the four entrances and exits into and out of the compound; (5) the reduced loading berths for large and small vans to serve a complex of this size.

The Zoning Commissioners were most concerned by the minuscule value of the amenities and public benefits compared with the tremendous benefits the developer is requesting of the community. The Zoning Commission recommended that the developer go back to the community and negotiate.

Our concerns should not be interpreted as opposition to this project, but rather an effort to assure that the community's interests are served. In fact, the rearrangement of the components of this project is an improvement over the original design. But the modification of the original project is so extensive as to change completely the originally approved request, and applicant is asking the District to change the zoning that is intended to protect the remaining residential community.

The District's use of land is an enigma. How the District can plan for good neighborhoods, hold on to its residential tax base and have a sound economy needs to be resolved. That is why the coming hearings on the Comprehensive Plan are so important to the Foggy Bottom/West End community.

Additionally, there are other concerns that seriously affect the Foggy Bottom/West End community. The first issue is one that the **National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)** has on its July Agenda regarding the suggested changes for Special Purposes Zones, as they affect Foggy Bottom/West End community and GWU. If these suggested changes go through, FB/WE will lose another chunk of protection for its residential community to GWU. This aggressive land use in the Foggy Bottom/West End neighborhood by GWU, added to the disastrous lack of enforcement of the Board of Zoning Adjustment Order, has contributed to the continuing devastation of housing and loss of taxpayers in the Foggy Bottom area. The NCPC's concern with the Federal interest and the protection of the residents in the nation's capital is not relevant.

The next issue involves the National Park Service (NPS), which is back with a request for approval by NCPC for the placement of permanent steel bollards, plus changes to Lafayette Square and the two historic streets which border it. Congress made it very

clear in the appropriations for the Interior Department that no money would be spent to keep **Pennsylvania Avenue** closed.

Another possible NCPC Agenda item is the **Rock Creek Management Plan**. I was told by the Director, when she cancelled her appearance before ANC-2A in May, that the plan was not ready for community input, that more changes were being made and the plan was to mail out a brochure. My comment to the Director was that brochures were not the best way to obtain community input but to meet directly with the communities that would be affected. So much for "great weight" being given to ANC's position. The Park Service bypassed the communities affected by these changes and went directly to the "top," the National Capital Planning Commission, which has the final say for the Federal interest.

For more information about these projects, attend the ANC's monthly public meetings. The meetings are normally held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., and the location is announced on the Commission's Information Center Phone, (202) 659-0011.



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Again Many Thanks Are Due--and Deserved

At the end of another year for the FBA, it is time to acknowledge the contributions of many of our residents and businesses.

The Editor's special thanks go out to all those who contributed to the *News*: to **Steve Timlin**, who handled ads and advertisers (and T-shirt sales, too!); and **Ilona Melstrads**, who superbly organized the distribution system on her computer; to **Ilona, John Graves** and **Joan Robinson** for counting and bundling the papers each month; and **GWU students Jon, Peter, and Amanda**, as well as **Jim McLeod**, for helping with the bulk delivery. We greatly appreciated the route deliverers, **Janet Axtell, Tom Bower, Mary Brewster, Anne Charles, Patrick Cody, Laetitia Combrinck, Jenny Lazowski** (who also handled the mailed copies), **Job Henning, Jackie Lemire** and **Paul O'Leary, Mel Maeda, Ann Mikulik, Kate Clinton Mullen, Rich Pollin, Gail Raywid, Darrell Rumsey, Paul Sakwa, Jenifer Seal, Sheridan Strickland, Michael Thomas, Don Tobey, Nori Uchida** and **Sandra Vonetes**. Thanks also to **John Brewer** of **Casillas Press** and **Sterling Schiffman** of **Silver Communications**, who turned words and pictures into a handsome (or so I think!) printed page.

And the most special thanks to the people and companies which advertised throughout the year, many of whom have done so for years. Their interest and support are very, very welcome.

And to **John Graves, Renie Melonson, Jim Patterson, Michael Thomas**, and **Jim and Kate McLeod** for their helpful and interesting articles.

We also thank **St. Mary's Court** for being the receiving area for the paper each month, and for hosting FBA Board meetings; to **Barbara Kubinski** and the staff of the **West End Library** for its help in being our "mailbox," and **Diana Contento** and the staff of the **Wyndham Bristol Hotel**, the site of our monthly

(Parklane, from page 1)

This city and therefore the world would be diminished without that incubator. Yet, it is slated for demolition without replacement.

She would be a pretty good-looking building if it wasn't for those window air conditioners added like the afterthought that they truly are. The building predates A.C. Line them up symmetrically like our next door neighbor, the **Lombardy Hotel**. Then, they'd look like they belong there. Demolish the **Park Lane** and replace it with a hermetically sealed stand-up ice cube tray building and the **Lombardy** and the **Arts Club of Washington** will look like a couple of out of place geezers that can't keep up with the times. **Park Lane, Lombardy, Arts Club, Red Lion Row** across the street, the park in the middle with **Pennsylvania Avenue** running between, it's a complete picture. That demolition permit might not be a matter of right after all.

The **Park Lane** is reaching the end of her economic life not because she's unsound, but because she sits on such valuable ground. She hasn't been fully leased in decades even though its \$12 a square foot. It's the cheapest rent for the best location in the city. People don't want to move in because **Bernstein** won't give a long-term lease. The building is doomed because the building is doomed.

The **Park Lane's** salvation is to find its market niche. Today is the day of the suburban home office. Why not the urban office home? There has been an office space glut for years and they're still building. Any residential space priced within shouting distance of reality is rented almost immediately. The **Park Lane** could be renovated with six months rent and leased at \$24 a square foot and achieve 100% occupancy. Aesthetic, economic, environmental, tax, and risk factors all favor renovation over demolition and reconstruction. All it should take is a few well placed phone calls to convince the parties involved.

meetings.

And my thanks as FBA President go to the Executive Board members for the past year. At-large members were **Olga Corey, Jim McLeod, Lucille Molinelli, Richard J. Price, Jo Tucci**, and **Marjorie Wheatley**. **Michael Thomas** served so well as

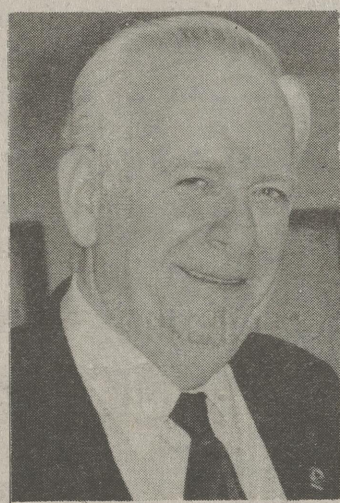
Vice President, **Kirsten Olsen** as Secretary, **Matt Hall** as Treasurer, and **Polly Berman** as Membership Director.

It was a pleasure to serve with them; they care deeply about the FBA and the wonderful neighborhood we call home.

Ellie Becker

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P.S. Of the thousands of real estate agents in Washington, in 1990 through 1996, Tom ranked number 1 in total number of sales transactions.



Ellie Becker smiles after receiving the Community Service Award from 2nd District Captain Shannon Cockett.

Ellie Becker Wins Police Award

by John Graves

At its Third Awards Banquet on May 29, FBA President **Ellie Becker** was recognized for her contributions to and support of the Second District of the Metropolitan Police and its officers. She was selected for the award by officers of **Foggy Bottom's Police Service Areas**. Ellie wrote her thanks to the PSA officers, stating she was "proud to receive the plaque and hear those nice words, and to be among such a distinguished group of police officers and community leaders" who were given awards.

Also honored was Officer **Dennis Fair** of **PSA 207**, who works the midnight shift. It is his record of numerous arrests of drivers under the influence of alcohol which earned him the vote of **Team 207** for an award.

PSA 208 chose **Raymond Larkin** as their Officer of the Year. He was cited for numerous arrests, handling of disorder problems, and sensitivity in taking care of problems associated with the homeless in the area.

Officer **Mark Dimiduk** was

selected by his peers in **PSA 209**, for his full attention to the crimes and disorder in his area. In his short time in **PSA 209**, he has received eight commendations and racked up 138 felony and misdemeanor arrests.

Ellie's award was for community service and the remarks accompanying the presentation said that she "has always been there to assist us," each month writing an article for the *News* on the happenings in 207, 208, and 209. She helps us "greatly in getting the word out about crime trends, . . . community meetings and phone numbers to contact team members." The citation also expressed their thanks for FBA's covering the cost of duplicating a flyer to alert motorists about auto theft. It ended with "Ms. Ellie Becker, thank you, not only for your continued support but the support the **Foggy Bottom Association** has given to the **Police Service Area Teams**."

Becker said that May was a "double-high month" for her. Her first hot-air balloon ride provided number 1 "high," and the honor of receiving the award from the men and women of the **FB** part of the Second District was a definite second high.

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Karen Lamb Describes Metro Programs and Procedures

At the June 1 FBA meeting, Karen Lamb spoke on her responsibilities as Director of Customer Relations at Metro, and informed the group of many of the programs ongoing and/or planned. Adopt-A-Stop, for example, partners Metro and concerned individuals, community groups and businesses to beautify and improve our neighborhoods. Interested persons or groups can (1) adopt one or more bus stop areas to beautify, and keep clean; (2) make a contribution of money (tax-deductible) or provide gardening materials, benches and trash cans for the program; or (3) purchase a new bus shelter for installation by WMATA. Metro requires those adopting a stop to undergo safety training and to commit for a two-year period. If interested, contact Leslie Porter-Stepney, Supervisor, Community Outreach, at 962-1481.

Lamb also described Metro's Mystery Rider program which at present consists of 56 individuals who ride Metro (train or bus) and fill out evaluation checklists every day. Frequent riders interested may also volunteer for that program, by contacting Lamb at 962-2790.

Lamb also stated that they welcome complaints or compliments, and that the number to call is 637-1328, or the main number 637-7000.

(Update, from page 1)

should not be included in the amenities package. Later discussions with the Anthony Lanier of Millenium explored alternatives to those projects. Questions were also raised, and continue to be raised, concerning whether a new application should be required and new hearings scheduled due to the substantial changes in the project since it was initially proposed.

The ANC planned to discuss the project again at its June meeting.

Two-Week Gelman Grace Period Granted

The Gelman Library has granted the FBA's request for a delay past June 30 to permit FBA members to use the library until July 15. FBA asked for the delay to allow the association time to receive 1998-1999 dues payments and to issue new membership cards. Even so, there may be a period in which access to the library will be denied. FBA President Ellie Becker told Laetitia Combrinck, who plays a liaison role for the Gelman, that FBA would try to get cards out as soon as possible, but "people must realize that we can't do things instantly." FBA elects new officers, including a Membership Director, on June 29.

The University's Gelman Library announced last year that access would be restricted to students, faculty and staff, and to those showing FBA or West End Citizens Association cards.

The restriction was due to "limited resources" and "the ever-increasing demands by GW and Consortium students and faculty." GWU enrollment has been increasing over the past several years and heavy use by the library by businesses such as law firms reportedly caused the decision.

Questions should be directed to Robert Kavalek, Gelman Library Building Operations Department Head, at 994-1315.

Columbia Plaza Gourmet Closes Doors

The Columbia Plaza Gourmet, owned by Jimmy Polsky, closed its doors in early June, the victim of declining potential customers and sharply rising rent. The Gourmet, which employed about eight persons, has been in that location for some years, and under Polsky's ownership for the last eight years. During that time the State Department, located nearby, has transferred hundreds of employees to another location, and one of the Columbia Plaza buildings has been undergoing renovations for several years, much longer than predicted. Both have decreased the Gourmet's customers, and when faced with a tripling in rent, Polsky was forced to close.

One immediate result that Monday evening was a heavy run on the Safeway, with "checkout lines around the block," said one shopper. Polsky can be found at a new deli at 1615 M Street, near the Sumner School and National Geographic.

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